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VIRGINIA LEGISLATIVE DOCUMENTS.

Many years ago the older papers forming the records of the General Assembly of Virginia were removed from the office of the Keeper of the Rolls, and deposited, or rather, apparently, thrown in a heap, in the garret of the Capitol. They long remained in this place with the dirt accumulating on them, unthought of and unused, except by Mr. W. W. Henry, who obtained from the mass, much material used in his *Life of Patrick Henry*.

About ten years ago the Legislature placed these records in the custody of the Secretary of the Commonwealth for arrangement and possible publication. They were, accordingly, brought down from the garret, properly arranged in chronological order, and put up in packages; but the removal of the State Library to a new building and a demand for the room in which these records were stored for other use, almost undid the good done by the arrangement. It became necessary to remove them to the new building, where they are packed in such a small space that they are practically inaccessible until again examined and arranged.

This Society has obtained permission to copy and publish them, and the first installment appears below.

These papers consist of petitions, remonstrances, letters, executive communications, rough draughts of bills, &c. There are a few documents of an earlier date than 1774; but the mass of them begin in that year.

[The first two papers in this collection are deeds, dated in 1728, conveying a lot of land for a free school in the town of Norfolk. These were printed in the *Lower Norfolk Antiquary*, I, 78-81.]

**Proceedings of Virginia Committee of Correspondence,*
1764.****VIRGINIA AND THE ENGLISH "DECLARATORY ACT."**

At a Committee of Correspondence held at the Capitol December 19, 1764.

* See Note 1, at end.

Present: The hon'ble John Blair, Wm. Nelson, Thos. Nelson and Peter Randolph, Esqr., John Robinson, Peyton Randolph, Richard Bland, Geo. Wythe, L. Burwell & Dud. Digges, Esq'.

Mr. Montague's Letter of the 21st July, was read & a Letter ordered to inform him of the proceedings of the present Session of Assembly on the Subject of the Taxes * proposed to be laid on the Colonies by the British Parliament & that copies of the Address to his Majesty & the Memorials to the House of Parliament be got ready to go with the Letter.

And the Com. immediately proceeded to prepare such a Letter, which was done at the Board, signed by all the members present and is as follows:

Virg^a, Dec., 20th, 1764.

Sir,

We have rec'd your Letter of the 21st of July last, & have only to observe with Respect to the Act * * of * * for regulating the German Coin, that his Hon. Gov. has wrote to ye Lo'ds of Trade on that Subject, transmitted to them an answer to the objection raised against it, in which he was assisted by some of our members & to which we beg leave to refer you. We are now to inform you that the General Assembly of this Colony met on the Day we mentioned in our last, and immediately took into consideration the Taxation proposed by the British Parliament on the American Colonies, when your several Letters on that subject and the Votes of the House of Commons which you sent us were laid before them.

The Result of their Deliberation on this important Subject, is an address to the King, and memorials to the two Houses of Parliament, in which the Council and House of Burgesses have unanimously joined and directed us to transmit them to you; and we must desire of you to try every possible method of having them properly presented and use your utmost Influence in supporting them. We are under some apprehensions that you will meet with Difficulty in getting the memorial to the Commons laid before them, as we have heard of their refusing to receive Petitions from the Colonies in former similar Instances. If this should be now the case we think you should have them

*See Note 2, at end.

printed and dispersed over the Nation, or the substance of them at least published in such manner as you may think least liable to objection, that the People of England may be acquainted with the Privileges & Liberties we claim as British Subjects; as their Brethren and the dreadful apprehensions we are under of being deprived of them in the unconstitutional method proposed.

We have had so many Proofs of your attention to our Interest that we do not entertain the least Doubt of your doing every thing in your Power to assist us in this very interesting Occasion in which we are persuaded you will be heartily seconded by the Agents for the other American Colonies. We are Sir,

Yr. mo. hble. Serv^r,

J. Blair,*	W. Nelson,†
T. Nelson,‡	P. Randolph,§
J. Robinson,	Pey. Randolph,¶
R. Bland,**	G. Wythe,††
L. Burwell,‡‡	D. Diggs, Jun.§§

Proceedings of Virginia Committee of Correspondence, 1765.

THE RESOLUTIONS OF MAY 30, 1765.

At a Committee held at the Capital the 14 Day of Sept^r, 1765.

Present: The hon. John Blair, Wm. Nelson, Thos. Nelson & Robert Carter, ° Esq^r, Peyton Randolph, Geo. Wythe, Robt. Carter Nicholas, ° ° Lewis Burwell, and Dudley Diggs, Esq^r,

* John Blair, of Williamsburg, born 1686, died November 5, 1771, was a nephew of Rev. James Blair, D. D., the first President of William and Mary College, and entered early into public life. He was member of the House of Burgesses for Williamsburg 1736, 1738, 1740; Auditor-General 1732-1771; member of the Council 1743-1771, and as President of that body was acting Governor January-June, 1758, and March-October, 1768. He married Mary, daughter of Rev. John Monro, and was father of Justice John Blair, of the U. S. Supreme Court. See *William and Mary Quarterly*, VII, 134-153; VIII, 1-17; and "Blair, Banister and Braxton Families."

† William Nelson, of Yorktown, born 1711, died November 19, 1772. He was a member of the House of Burgesses for York county 1742, 1744; of the Council 1744-1772, and as President of the Council was

Mr. Atto; Mr. Wythe, Mr. Nicholas, app^d to prepare a Letter to

acting Governor from October 15, 1770, to August, 1771. He married Elizabeth, daughter of Nathaniel Burwell, of "Carter's Creek," Gloucester county, and was the father of Thomas Nelson, signer of the Declaration of Independence

See *R. C. M. Page's Page, Nelson, &c., Families*, 2d edition, 160-166; *William and Mary Quarterly*, VII, 25-30; *Meade's Old Churches and Families of Virginia*, I, 205-210.

‡ Thomas Nelson, of Yorktown, Va. (a brother of William Nelson), was born in 1716 and died in 1782. He was a member of the House of Burgesses for York county 1745-1749, inclusive; of the Council 1749-76, and Secretary of State 1743-76. It appears from the *Virginia Gazette* (Dixon and Hunter's), of May 6, 1775 that he was then President of the Council. His house at Yorktown was for a time Cornwallis' headquarters; but was destroyed by the bombardment. "Secretary Nelson," as he was usually called, was at Yorktown when the siege commenced; but on October 8th, came out to the American lines under a flag of truce. A contemporary writer says that he spoke cheerfully to the officers who gathered around him, and encouraged them by his description of the great damage the shells were doing in the town.

He married Lucy Armistead.

‡ Peter Randolph, of "Chatsworth," Henrico county, born 1713, died July 8, 1767; was appointed to the Council in 1751 and was Surveyor General of the Customs for the Middle District of North America. He was probably not in favor of any radical measures in opposition to England, as Jefferson says that the morning after Henry's resolutions—the first five—were adopted in 1765, he saw Colonel Peter Randolph sitting at the clerk's table examining the journals to find a precedent for expunging a vote of the House. His will is published in Water's *Gleanings*.

He married Lucy, daughter of Robert Bolling, of Prince George county, and was the father of Beverley Randolph, Governor of Virginia.

‡ John Robinson, of "Mt. Pleasant," King and Queen county, was born in Virginia, and died in May, 1766. He was a member of the House of Burgesses for King and Queen county 1736-1766, and Speaker of the House and Treasurer of Virginia 1738-1766. The *Virginia Gazette* for May 16, 1766, contains the following: "On Sunday last died John Robinson, Esq., a member of the General Assembly for the county of King and Queen. He had been almost thirty years Speaker of the Burgesses, every one allowing to his indisputable merit, not the second, but the first place in that House; which post he filled with sufficient ability, and equal dignity: So that the public is deprived of a most useful servant. And the many amiable virtues which adorned his private

the agent to ackno^r: Rec^d of his sevⁿ Letters of 19th Nov^r, 1764,

station, whilst they consecrate his memory among his friends, dependants, and acquaintance, mark his death as a calamity to be lamented by the unfortunate and indigent who were wont to be relieved and cherished by his humanity and liberality.'

His natural abilities, and genial temper, united to the two offices he held, made him long one of the most influential men in Virginia. This easy and generous disposition caused him to be a careless guardian of the public funds, and at his death he was found to be a defaulter for about £100,000. Much of this was on account of money he had loaned to friends. Ultimately the whole was repaid from his great estate.

He married (I), — Story; (II), Lucy, daughter of Augustine Moore, of "Chelsea;" (II), Susanna, daughter of Colonel John Chiswell. His only descendants are through his daughter Susanna, who married Robert Nelson, of "Malvern Hill," Henrico county.

¶ Peyton Randolph, of Williamsburg, born 1721, died September 22, 1775, was member of the House of Burgesses for William and Mary College of Williamsburg from 1748 to 1775, continuously; Attorney-General 1748-1766, and Speaker of the House of Burgesses 1767-1775. He was President of the Convention of March, 1774 and 1775, and that of July in the latter year, but resigned the position in August on account of bad health. Was President of the Continental Congress in 1774 and 1775. He married Elizabeth, sister of Benjamin Harrison, the signer of the Declaration of Independence, but had no issue.

** Richard Bland, of "Jordan's," Prince George county, born May 6, 1710, died October 26, 1776. He was a member of the House of Burgesses 1742-1775, continuously; of the Conventions of March, July and December, 1775, and May, 1776; elected member of the Colonial Committee of Correspondence in 1773; of the Committee of Safety 1775, and of Congress 1774, and re-elected in 1775. Throughout the events producing the Revolution he was one of the leaders of the colony.

He was author of "A Letter to the Clergy on the Two-penny Act" (1760), and "An Inquiry into the Rights of the British Colonies" (1766).

He married Ann, daughter of Peter Poythress.

†† George Wythe, born 1726, in Elizabeth City county, died June 8, 1806, in Richmond; was a member of the House of Burgesses for Williamsburg 1754-1755, for William and Mary College 1758-1761, and for Elizabeth City county 1761-1768. He appears at the date last mentioned to have retired for some years from public life, and held no other office until elected to Congress. He was a member of that body in 1775 and 1776, and signed the Declaration of Independence. He was chancellor of the State of Virginia and first professor of law in William and Mary College.

Feb. 7th and 16th, April 4th, and May 1st, 1765. To apprise

See biographical sketch prefixed to B. B. Minor's edition of *Wythe's Reports*, and *William and Mary Quarterly*, II, 67-69.

‡ ‡ Lewis Burwell, of "Kingsmill," James City county, member of the House of Burgesses for that county from 1758 to 1775, continuously. He married Frances, daughter of Edwin Thacker, of Middlesex county, and is said to have died in 1784.

§ § Dudley Digges, of York county and Williamsburg, was born 1729, and died June 3, 1790. He was a member of the House of Burgesses for York county 1732-1774; of the Convention of 1775-1776; of the Committee of Correspondence and Safety and of the State Council 1776-1780, &c. He married, first, Martha Armistead; second, Elizabeth, daughter of Ralph Wormeley, of "Rosegill," Middlesex county.

° Robert Carter, of "Nominy Hall," Westmoreland county, born 1728, died March 4, 1804, in Baltimore, Md. He was appointed to the Council in 1758. It is believed that shortly before the Revolution he retired from public life and devoted his time to the management of his estate, and to books and music. After the war he freed most of his slaves, several hundred in number, and removed to Baltimore. He married Frances, daughter of Hon. Benjamin Tasker of Maryland. In regard to him, see the "Diary of Philip Fithian" (Princeton University Press), who was a tutor at Nominy Hall just before the Revolution.

° ° Robert Carter Nicholas, born 1715, died 1780; was a member of the House of Burgesses 1764-1776, Treasurer 1766-1776, member of the Revolutionary Convention, of the House of Delegates 1777-1779; Appointed Judge of the Court of Chancery, and Judge of the Court of Appeals of Virginia. He married Anne, daughter of Col. Wilson Cary, of "Ceeley's" and "Richneck," and was the father of Wilson Cary Nicholas, Governor of Virginia, and U. S. Senator, and of George Nicholas, so distinguished in Kentucky.

It has been deemed proper to give sketches of the public services of the men who formed the Committee of Correspondence of 1764-'65, because their selection as members of that body by the Council and House of Burgesses, shows that they were considered as among the leading men of the two branches of the Assembly. They were, indeed, types of the men who were at the head of affairs in Virginia just prior to the Revolutionary movement. They were men devoted alike to England and to the rights of the Colonies, and all of them of good character, liberal education, for the time, and of large estates. Blair was educated in Scotland; the two Nelsons, it is believed, at William and Mary, as was Peter Randolph. Robinson was probably educated in England, and Peyton Randolph studied at William and Mary and the Tem-

him of a spurious Copy of the Resolves* of the last Sess. of Ass. on hearing of the Stamp act being dispersed ab^t & printed in the News Papers, & to send him a true copy of the Votes on that occasion properly authenticated, to prevent any ill Impress^t from the Spurious copies.

To advise him of the Act for continuing him in office, & to thank him for his care & attentⁿ to the Int^t of America notwithstanding the fatal stamp.

Sept. 19. Letter read and signed by:

J. Blair,	W. Nelson,
T. Nelson,	Peyton Randolph,
Peter Randolph,	G. Wythe,
R. C. Nicholas,	L. Burwell,
D. Diggs, Jun.	

Resolved, That the first adventurers and Settlers of this his Majesty's Colony and Dominion of Virginia, brought with them and transmitted to their posterity and other his Majesty's Subjects since inhabiting in this his Majesty's said Colony, all the Liberties, Privileges, Franchises and Immunities that have at any Time been held, enjoyed and possessed by the People of Great Britain..

Resolved, That by two Royal Charters granted by King James the first, the Colonists aforesaid are declared entitled to all Liberties, Privileges and Immunities of Denizens, and Natural Subjects to all Intents

ple ; Richard Bland, at William and Mary and Edinburgh ; Wythe and Nicholas, at William and Mary, as, it is thought, were Burwell and Digges ; while Carter was educated in England. William Nelson and Nicholas were noted for their devotion to the church.

In character, education and manner of life, these typical Virginians of the first rank during this period, were as different as it was possible for men to be from the ignorant and debauched creatures which it has pleased various so-called historians and biographers to picture as representatives of Virginia colonial character.

After 1765 new men came forward, and most of the members of the Committee of Correspondence, who remained, became more radical in their views, and were foremost in the Revolutionary movement as they had been in the peaceful period preceding it. Peyton Randolph, Bland, Wythe and Nicholas, will always hold a high place in our history, and Digges and Burwell, though in minor places, played their parts well.

* See Note 3, at end.

and Purposes as if they had been abiding and born within the Realm of England.

Resolved, That the Taxation of the People by themselves or by Persons chosen by themselves to represent them, who can only know what Taxes the people are able to bear, or the easiest Method of raising them, and must themselves be affected by every Tax laid on the People, is the only Security against a burthensome Taxation, and the distinguishing characteristics of British Freedom, without which the ancient Constitution cannot exist.

Resolved, That his Majesty's liege People of this his most antient and loyal Colony, have without Interruption enjoyed the inestimable Right of being governed by such Laws respecting their internal polity and Taxation, as are derived from their own Consent, with the approbation of their Sovereign or his Substitute, and that the same hath never been forfeited or yielded up, but hath been constantly recognized by the kings and people of Great Britain.

Treaty* With the Cherokees at Lochabor, S. C., 1770.

At a meeting of the principal Chiefs & Warriors of the Cherokee Nation, with John Stuart,† Esq^r, Superintendent of Indian Affairs, &c., at Lochabor, So. Carolina, October 18th, 1770.

Present: Colo. Donelson, by appointment of his Excellency, the Right Hon^{ble} Lord Botetourt, in behalf of the province of Virginia; Alex^r Cameron, deputy Superintendant; James Simpson, Esq^r, Clk. of his Majesty's Council of So. Carolina; Major Lacy, from Virginia; Major Williamson, Capt. Cohoon, John Caldwell, Esq^r, Capt. Winter, Christopher Peters, Esq^r, Edw'd Wilkinson, Esq^r, and Jno. Hamerrar, Esq^r. Besides a great number of the back inhabitants of the province of South Carolina, and the following chiefs of the Cherokee Nation: Ocon-

* See Note 4, at end.

† John Stuart (1750-1779) came to America with Oglethorpe, and in 1763 was appointed General Agent and Superintendent of Indian Affairs for the Southern Department. He exercised great influence over the southern Indians, and at the beginning of the Revolution conceived the plan of attacking the colonies from the westward with a large force of Indians, aided by British troops. This plan was frustrated by the defeats inflicted upon the Indians by Sevier and others, and Stuart returned to England.

istoto,* Kittagusta, Attacallaculla, Keyatoy, Tiftoy, Tarrapino, Eny of Tugalo, Scaliloskie, Chimista, Chimista of Wataugali, Octaciti of Hey Wassie, and about a thousand other Indians of the same nation.

John Watts, David McDonald, Jno. Vaust, Interpreters.

Treaty, Monday, 22d Oct'r.

At a congress of the principal chiefs of the Cherokee Nation, held at Lochaber, in the province of South Carolina, on the 18th day of Octb', in the year of our Lord 1770, by John Stuart, Esq', his Majesty's Agent for, and Superintendent of, the affairs of the Indian Nation in the southern district of No. America.

A Treaty for a cession ! his most sacred Majesty, George the third, by the Grace of God of Great Britain, France & Ireland, King, defender of the faith, &c., by the Said Nation of Cherokee Indians, of certain lands lying within the limits of the Dominion of Virginia.

Whereas by a treaty entered into & concluded at Hard Labour the 14th day of Oct', in the year 1768, by John Stuart, esquire, his Majesty's Agent for, & superintendent of the affairs of, the Indian Nations inhabiting the southern district of North America, with the principal and ruling chiefs of the Cherokee Nation, all the lands formerly claimed by & belonging to the said Nation of Indians lying within the province of Virginia to the eastward of a line, beginning at the boundary of the province of No. Carolina & Virginia, running in a N. B. E. Course to Col^o Chiswell's mine on the eastern bank of the Great Canaway, & from thence in a straight line to the mouth of the said Great Canaway river, where it discharges itself into the Ohio river, were ceded to his most sacred Majesty, his heirs and successors; and whereas by the above recited treaty all the lands lying between Holsten's river, & the line above specified were determined to belong to the Cherokee Nation to the great Loss &

* Oconistota, head king of the Cherokees, who was from 1738 to the close of the Revolution a leading figure in the Indian struggles on the western border. He was living at an advanced age and in great poverty in 1809.

Atta-Calla-Culla was chosen vice-king of the Cherokees under Oconastota in 1738. He was in general friendly towards the whites.

inconvenience of many of his Majesty's subjects inhabiting the said lands; and representation of the same having been made to his Majesty by his Excellency, the Rt. Hon^{ble} Norborne Baron de Botetourt, his Majesty's Lieutenant & Gov^r General of the dominion of Virginia, in consequence whereof his majesty has been graciously pleased to signify his Royal Pleasure to John Stuart, Esq., his Agent for, and Superintendent of, Indian Affairs in the Southern district of North America, by an instruction contained in a letter from the Right Hon^{ble} the Earl of Hillsborough, one of his Majesty's principal secretaries of state, Dated the 13th of May, 1769, to enter into a negotiation with the Cherokees for establishing a new boundary line beg'g at the point where the No. Carolina line terminates, & to run thence in a west course to Holsten's river, where it is intersected by a continuation of the line dividing the province of No. Carolina & Virginia, and thence a straight course to the confluence of the great Canaway and Ohio rivers.

Dec^r 12th, 1770.

Article 1st. Pursuant Therefore to his Majesty's orders to & power & authority vested in John Stuart, Esq^r, Agent for and Superintendent of the affairs of the Indian tribes in the Southern district, It is agreed upon by the said John Stuart, esq^r, on behalf of his most sacred Majesty, George the third, by the grace of God, of Great Britian, France & Ireland, King, defender of the faith, &c. ; And by the subscribing cherokee chiefs & warriors on behalf of their said nation in consideration of his Majesty's paternal goodness, so often demonstrated to them, the said Cherokee Indians, & from their affection & friendship for their Brethren, the inhabitants of Virginia, as well as their earnest desire of removing as far as possible all cause of dispute between them & the said inhabitants on account of encroachment on lands reserved by the said Indians for themselves & also for a valuable consideration in various sorts of Goods paid to them by the said John Stuart, esq^r, on behalf of the dominion of Virginia, that the hereafter recited line be ratified and confirmed and it is hereby ratified & confirmed accordingly, And it is by these presents firmly stipulated & agreed upon by the parties aforesaid that a line beginning where the boundary line between the province of

No. Carolina & the Cherokee hunting grounds terminates & running thence in a west course to a point six miles east of long Island in Holstins river & thence to said river six miles above the said long Island thence in a * * course to the confluence of the great Canaway & Ohio rivers, shall remain and be deemed by all his Majesty's white subjects as well as all the Indians of the Cherokee Nation the true & just limits & boundaries of the lands reserved by the said Nation of Indians for their own proper use and dividing the same from the lands ceded by them to his Majesty within the limits of the province of Virginia, and that his Majesty's white subjects inhabiting the province of Virginia shall not, upon any pretence whatsoever, settle beyond the said line, nor shall the said Indians make any settlements or encroachments on the lands which by this treaty they cede and confirm to his Majesty; and it is further agreed that as soon as his Majesty's Royal approbation of this treaty shall have been signified to the Governor of Virginia or Superintendent this treaty shall be carried into execution.

Article IInd. And it is further agreed upon and stipulated by the contracting parties that no alteration whatsoever shall hence forward be made in the boundary line above recited & now solemnly agreed upon, except such as may hereafter be found expedient & necessary for the mutual interest of both parties & which alteration shall be made with the consent of the superintendant or such other person or persons as shall be authorized by his Majesty as well as with the consent & approbation of the cherokee Nation of Indians at a congress or general meeting of said Indians to be held for said purpose and not in any other manner.

In Testimony whereof the said Superintendant on behalf of his Majesty & the underwritten cherokee chiefs on behalf of their Nation have signed & sealed this present treaty at the time & place aforesaid.

JOHN STUART.	[L. s.]
Chinista of Sugar Town,	[L. s.]
Chinista of Wataugah,	[L. s.]
Otasite Hey Wassie,	[L. s.]
Oconistoto Y C,	[L. s.]
Kittagusta,	[L. s.]

Attacullaculla,	[L. S.]
Keyatoys Mark,	[L. S.]
Kinalilaps do,	[L. S.]
Ukayonla,	[L. S.]
Chuckamuntas,	[L. S.]
Sky agusta Tucelicis,	[L. S.]
Woolf of Keewees,	[L. S.]
Sky agusta Tiftoy,	[L. S.]
Terrapino,	[L. S.]
Ency of Tugalo,	[L. S.]
Scalilus Key of Sugar Town.	[L. S.]

By order of the Superintendent, William Ogilvy, Sec'y.

The proceedings of the above Congress & also the said treaty were read in Council Dec' 12th, 1770.

Copy taken at W^mburg June, '76.

NOTE I.

COMMITTEE OF CORRESPONDENCE.

By act of Assembly passed February second, 1759, Edward Montague, of the Middle Temple, was appointed resident agent for Virginia in England. All business with him was to be conducted, under control of the General Assembly, by a "Committee of Correspondence," composed of William Nelson, Thomas Nelson, Philip Grymes, and Peter Randolph [of the Council], and John Robinson, Peyton Randolph, Charles Carter, Richard Bland, Landon Carter, Benjamin Waller, George Wythe, and Robert Carter Nicholas [of the House of Burgesses]. See *Hening* vii, 276-277, 375-377, 646-647. In 1763 John Blair, Robert Carter, Lewis Burwell, and Dudley Digges were added to the committee.

From the earliest period the colony had from time to time representatives in England; but they were generally special agents sent from Virginia.

NOTE II.

The long struggle between England and the American colonies had begun in March, 1764, by the passage by Parliament

of resolutions declaratory of an intention to impose a stamp duty in America, and avowing the right and expediency of taxing the colonies.

Though this "Declaratory Act" excited the same feelings of resentment and alarm in Virginia as in the other colonies, we have but few details. Our historians and biographers have passed over this period with the briefest notice, and with the exception of Wirt, who in his *Life of Henry*, prints the memorials drawn up by the House of Burgesses towards the close of the year, give no information of value. No file of the *Virginia Gazette* for 1764 is known to the writer, and an (imperfect) printed journal of the House of Burgesses, which met on October 30th, together with the memorials printed by Wirt, are the only remaining documents for the year in regard to Virginia. As will be seen, however, newspapers of a later date give some interesting facts in regard to public feeling and the action taken by the Assembly.

The first public meeting in America in which opposition to the proposed tax was indicated assembled in Faneuil Hall, Boston, May 24th, 1764, and this was followed by measures taken by the Massachusetts House of Representatives.

Local meetings may have been held in Virginia during the spring and summer; but the General Assembly of the colony did not convene until October 30th.

On the first day of the session the Governor laid before the house seven acts of Parliament, which concerned all the colonies—doubtless the resolutions referred to were among them. On November 1st the speaker laid before the House a letter he had received in July last from the "Committee of the Hon. House of Representatives of Massachusetts Bay, relative to the late act of Parliament concerning the Sugar Trade with the several colonies," &c. The letter was at that time ordered to lie on the table. On November 6, the letter and papers laid before the House by the Governor were referred to the Committee of the Whole. On November 5, the several letters to and from the Agent in England, and that addressed to the Speaker from the Committee of Massachusetts Bay, were referred to the Committee of the Whole.

On the 4th, this committee reported as follows:

“Mr. Attorney, from the Committee of the whole House, reported, according to Order, that the Committee had had under their Consideration the State of the Colony, and the several Letters to them referred, and had come to several Resolutions thereon; which he read in his Place, and then delivered in at the Table, where they were again twice read, and agreed to, with some Amendments, and are as follows:

Resolved, That a most humble and dutiful Address be presented to his Majesty, imploring his Royal Protection of his faithful Subjects, the People of this Colony, in the Enjoyment of all their natural and civil Rights, as men, and as Descendants of Britons; which Rights must be violated if Laws, respecting the internal Government, and Taxation of themselves, are imposed upon them by any other Power than that derived from their own Consent, by and with the Approbation of their Sovereign, or his Substitute. And professing, that as these People have at all Times been forward and zealous to demonstrate their Loyalty and Affection to his Majesty, and especially by a ready Compliance with the Requisitions of the Crown to bear their Part in the late War, which they engaged to do with the more Alacrity, from a Confidence that the Royal Benignity would never suffer them to be deprived of their Freedom (that sacred Birthright and inestimable Blessing) so they would be willing to contribute their Proportion of any Expenses necessary for the Defence and Security of America, as far as the Circumstances of the People, already distressed with Taxes, would admit of, provided it were left to themselves to raise it, by Modes least grievous.

Resolved, That a Memorial be prepared to be laid before the Right Hon. the Lords Spiritual and Temporal in Parliament assembled, intreating their Lordships, by a proper and seasonable Interposition and Exertion of their Power, not to suffer the People of this Colony to be enslaved or oppressed by Laws respecting their internal Polity, and Taxes imposed on them in a Manner that is unconstitutional, and declaring our Hopes that the Preservation of the Rights of any of his Majesty's faithful Subjects will be thought by their Lordships an Object worthy the Attention of those hereditary Guardians and Protectors of

British Liberty and Property, and especially as the Subversion of those Rights, in the Instance of taxing the People of Virginia at this time, when they are most grievously burdened by the Expenses of the late War, must diminish that Consumption of Manufactures furnished to them by their Mother Country, by which her Wealth is very greatly augmented, and her Prosperity continued.

Resolved, That a Memorial be prepared to be laid before the Honourable the House of Commons, to assert, with decent Freedom, the Rights and Liberties of the People of this Colony as British Subjects; to remonstrate that Laws for their internal Government, or Taxation ought not to be imposed by any Power but what is delegated to their Representatives, chosen by themselves; and to represent that the People are already taxed, for several Years to come, so heavily, for Expenses incurred in the late War, amounting to near Half a Million, that an Increase of that Burthen by the Parliament, at this Time, would be not only a Violation of the most sacred and valuable Principle of the Constitution, but such an oppression as would probably draw after it a Desolation in many Parts of the Country, and must divert those of the Inhabitants, who could not remove from it, to manufacture what Articles they have hitherto been supplied with from the Mother Country, and consequently one grand Source of her Wealth and Prosperity will be stopped up.

Resolved, That the Committee appointed to correspond with the Agent of this Colony in Great Britain, pursuant to an Act of Assembly *For appointing an Agent*, be directed to answer the Letter of the 25th of June last from the Committee of the House of Representatives of the Province of Massachusetts Bay to the Honourable the Speaker of the House of Representatives for the Province of Virginia, and to assure that Committee that the Assembly of Virginia are highly sensible of the very great Importance it is, as well to the Colony of Virginia, as to America in general, that the Subjects of Great Britain in this Part of its Dominions should continue in Possession of their ancient and most valuable Right of being taxed only by Consent of their Representatives, and that the Assembly here will omit no Meas-

ures in their Power to prevent such essential Injury from being done to the Rights and Liberties of the People.

Ordered, That a Committee be appointed to draw up the Address, and Memorials, in the said Report mentioned, and it is referred to Mr. Attorney, Mr. Richard Henry Lee, Mr. Landon Carter, Mr. Wythe, Mr. Edmund Pendleton, Mr. Benjamin Harrison, Mr. Cary, and Mr. Fleming, to prepare and bring in the same.

And then the House adjourned until Tomorrow Morning 11 o'Clock."

From Dec. 6 to 13, the last day included in this copy of the Journal, the House seems to have been almost daily considering, in Committee of the whole, the proposed memorials. The date on which they were finally adopted does not appear, but the memorials are printed in the Appendix to Wirt's *Life of Patrick Henry*. Wirt states, on the authority of Jefferson, that the first was by Mr. Attorney, Peyton Randolph, the second of unknown authorship, probably Bland or Pendleton, and the third, also on the authority of Jefferson, by Wythe. In regard to this last memorial Jefferson is quoted as saying that Wythe told him that it was originally done with so much freedom, that his colleagues of the Committee shrank from it as wearing the aspect of treason, and smoothed its features to the present form.

Mr. W. W. Henry says (*Life of Patrick Henry*) that the first two were by R. H. Lee and the third by Wythe.

(TO BE CONTINUED.)